



Grace Ambassadors Bible Fellowship

Colossians Book Summary

5 June 2018

Lesson 1: Introduction & Overview

1. Purpose

- a. Why this series? 1) circumstance, 2) complement mid-Acts, 3) interest, 4) edification

2. What to Expect

- a. Audience: “*Saints...at Colosse*” (Asia) → Indirect result of Paul’s Asia ministry – Ac20:31
 - i. Paul’s Asia ministry – Ac16:6,7; 18:18-21; 19:1,8,10,22,26-27; 20:18,31 *MAP
 - ii. All in Asia heard (Ac19:10), saluted (1Cor16:19), & turned away? (2Tim1:15)
 - iii. Relative proximity to S. Galatia w/ similar warnings/issues – Col2:16-17
- b. Dispensational Context: Prison epistle (4:3,18) → Epaphras (1:7; 4:12; Cf. Phlm23)
 - i. Generally, quite like Ephesians – Note: *Spirit* mentioned minimally (12x vs. 1x)
 - ii. Pre-Prison: Galatians (Ac16), 1 & 2 Thess. (17), 1 & 2 Corinth (19), Romans (20)
 - iii. Early Prison (Ac28+): Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, 1Timothy, Philemon
 - iv. Liberty: Titus (Ti3:12) | Late Prison: 2 Timothy
- c. Themes: The worthy walk, complete in Christ
 - i. Christ’s preeminence (1:18), fulness (1:19) & sufficiency (2:10)
 - ii. The believer’s completion (2:10), affection (3:2) & perfection in Christ (1:28)
 - iii. Warning: philosophy & law tradition (2:8,16,17)
- d. Language:
 - i. Lofty → *preeminence* (1:18), *triumphing* (2:15), *glory* (1:27; 3:4)
 - ii. Stability → *grounded* (1:23), *rooted...built up...stablished* (2:7), *complete* (2:10)
 - iii. Identity → *put on* (3:10,12,14)
 - iv. Maturity → *perfect(ness)* (1:28; 3:14; 4:12), *nourishment...increase* (2:19)
 - v. Mobility → *walk* (1x/chapter = 1:10; 2:6; 3:7; 4:5), *seek* (3:1)
 - vi. Liberty → *Let no man* (2:16,18)

3. Popular Passages (and issues)

- a. 1:9-11 – While not as popular as it should be, we’ll give it prominence
- b. 1:16 – JWs NWT add “*other*” to teach Christ isn’t God
- c. 2:9 – Deity upholders: Christ in whom all fulness dwells
- d. 2:10-15 – Security declarers: And we complete in him
- e. 2:12 – Baptism controversy: Used in conjunction with Rom 6:3-4
- f. 2:16-23 – Legalism shackled, liberty proclaimed
- g. 3:16 – Music ministry
- h. Territory used for the Acts 28 error

4. Outline

- a. Chapters: 4 | Doctrine (1-2); Application (3-4)

5. Schedule

- a. 5 June – Lesson 1: Introduction | 12 June – Lesson 2: 1:1-23
- b. 19 June – Lesson 3: 1:24-2:15 | 26 June – Lesson 4: 2:16-3:4
- c. 2 July – Lesson 5: 3:5-4:1 | 9 July – Lesson 6: 4:2-18